

WI-470

c. 1880

William B. Tilghman, Sr. House
Salisbury
Private

One of the prominent Queen Anne dwellings to remain standing along Camden Avenue is the William B. Tilghman, Sr. house, erected in stages during the later years of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth century. Typical of the eclectic style is the asymmetrical plan defined by a three-story round tower on the northeast corner and two-story pavilions on the south side of the house. The round tower is capped by a conical roof fitted with a metal weathervane that carries the letter "T". The variety of exterior wood finishes, from plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles to carved wood decoration, is common to the late nineteenth-century style as well. One of the most dynamic features of the house is a large colored glass window of leaded panes that lights the circular staircase. Interesting as well are the reused mantels found on the first floor. The front living room mantel dates from the early nineteenth century, while the marble mantels in the parlor and dining room are typical of the Civil War era. The original locations for these older mantels is not known.

William B. Tilghman, Sr. acquired this house and lot in 1882. He paid \$1200 for the property, which indicates that it would have been improved at the time, and the cruciform-shaped main block most likely stood on the lot at the time. After the turn of the century William B. Tilghman financed construction of the three-story conical roofed tower that provided the house with its distinct Queen Anne form.

William B. Tilghman (1839-1907) amassed a considerable estate and position in Salisbury's commercial life during the second half of the nineteenth century. After

moving to Salisbury at age 17, he took a position in the store owned by John D. Williams for \$75 per year plus room and board. Two years later his salary was increased to \$150 per year. In 1862 William B. Tilghman entered into a tripartite partnership with General Humphrey Humphreys and Dr. Cathell Humphreys, creating the firm of Humphreys & Tilghman, which operated in the City of Salisbury for more than a quarter of a century. In 1895 Mr. Tilghman formed a new partnership with Jeffery Staton, principally selling fertilizer and shingles. The William B. Tilghman Company was a long-term fixture along Salisbury's waterfront.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. W I-470

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic William B. Tilghman House

other

2. Location

street and number 408 Camden Avenue

not for publication

city, town Salisbury

vicinity

county Wicomico

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Joseph S. and Arlois Price

street and number P.O. Box 457

telephone

city, town Sharptown

state

MD

zip code

21861

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court

tax map and parcel Map 111, P. 1511

city, town Salisbury, Maryland

liber 865

folio 151

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
☒ **Contributing Resource in Local Historic District**
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
district	public	agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	commerce/trade	2	buildings
structure	both	defense		sites
site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
object		education		objects
		funerary	2	Total
		government		
		health care		
		industry		
		landscape		
		recreation/culture		
		religion		
		social		
		transportation		
		work in progress		
		unknown		
		vacant/not in use		
		other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-470

Name William B. Tilghman House
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-470

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
x	good	ruins
	fair	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The William B. Tilghman house is located at 408 Camden Avenue in the Camden Historic District, Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story Queen Anne frame dwelling faces east.

Dating around 1880 and enlarged around 1910 with a circular tower addition, the two-and-a-half story, asymmetrically planned frame dwelling is supported on a full brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar. The exterior is sheathed with a combination of plain weatherboards, fishscale shingles, and aluminum siding. The steeply pitched roofs are covered with a combination of asphalt shingles and slate. Standing in the back yard is a single-story, single-bay frame garage.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a central entrance fixed between a projecting pavilion on the south and a three story circular tower to the north. The entire first floor is sheltered by a square columned front porch that wraps around the southeast corner. The center bay of the porch is enhanced with a cross gable and shingled front. A molded handrail stretches between the square columns. The paneled front door is framed by a segmental arched opening trimmed with pilasters and six-light sidelights. A paired set of single-pane sash windows marks the bay to the north while a three-side bay defines the first floor of the projecting pavilion on the south side. The second floor is an uneven wall surface with a tripartite window fixed in the center bay. The tripartite window is fixed within a segmental arched opening with neoclassical pilasters on the outside edge of sidelights and an arched door that open onto a small porch. A single window opening marks the tower bay, while a pair of two-over-two sash windows pierce the second floor of the projecting pavilion. The pavilion windows retain shutter hardware. The gable end of the pavilion is finished with a combination of decorative fishscale shingles and carved wood ornament. The extended eave has a decorated bargeboard and stick brackets at the lower corners. The third floor of the tower is pierced by a series of nine-over-one sash windows of varying size. Trimming the base of the conical roof is a modillion block cornice. The point of the tower roof is capped by a metal weathervane, and the tail of the arrow is pierced with the letter "T". The roof slope between the pavilion and the tower is defined by a hip roofed dormer finished with shingled sides and pierced by a nine-over-one sash window. Rising through the center of the house are large brick chimneys with corbelled caps.

Attached to the back of the house is a two-story service wing sheathed with aluminum siding and covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. A small pantry room is enclosed off the rear porch and is entered through a partially glazed late nineteenth-century door.

(Continued)

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-470

Name William B. Tilghman House
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

The interior retains most of its late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century woodwork. The front entrance hall is dominated by a circular staircase that rises within the tower. Distinguishing the stairwell is beautiful leaded glass window. Mahogany pocket doors open into a parlor behind. Most of the woodwork on the first floor dates to the late nineteenth century aside from a Federal era mantel in the southeast living room and a pair of marble mantels in the parlor and dining room. The Federal mantel has hand-carved decoration typical of the early nineteenth century (c. 1820), while the marble mantels date around 1870. A full cellar is located under the rear portion of the house and circular sawn joists are fitted with a deadening inner layer of wood.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-470

Name William B. Tilghman House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-470

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
X1800-1899	x architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	religion
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history
	community planning		maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:
Significance dates		Architect		
Specific dates		Builder		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

One of the prominent Queen Anne dwellings to remain standing along Camden Avenue is the William B. Tilghman, Sr. house, erected during the late years of the nineteenth century and enlarged during the early twentieth century. Typical of the eclectic style is the asymmetrical plan defined by a three-story round tower on the northeast corner and two-story pavilions on the south side of the house. The round tower is capped by a conical roof fitted with a metal weathervane that carries the letter "T". The variety of exterior wood finishes, from plain weatherboard and fishscale shingles to carved wood decoration, is common to the late nineteenth century style as well. One of the most dynamic features of house is a large colored glass window of leaded panes that lights the circular staircase. Interesting as well are the reused mantels found on the first floor. The front living room mantel dates from the early nineteenth century while the marble mantels in the parlor and dining room are typical of the Civil War era. The original locations for these older materials is not known.

William B. Tilghman, Sr. acquired this Camden Avenue house and lot in 1882.¹ He paid \$1200 for the lot, which indicates that it would have been improved at the time, and the cruciform-shaped main block of this house most likely stood

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 5/436, 16 December 1882.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-470

Name William B. Tilghman House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

on the lot at the time. After the turn century William B. Tilghman financed the construction of the three-story conical roofed tower that provided the house with its distinct Queen Anne form.² William B. Tilghman, Sr. (1839-1907) amassed a considerable estate and position in Salisbury's commercial life during the second half of the nineteenth century. After moving to Salisbury at age 17, he took a position in the store owned by John D. Williams for \$75 per year plus room and board. Two years later his yearly salary increased to \$150 per year. In 1862 William B. Tilghman entered into a tripartite partnership with General Humphrey Humphreys and Dr. Cathell Humphreys, creating the firm of Humphreys & Tilghman, which operated in the City of Salisbury for more than a quarter of a century. In 1895 Mr. Tilghman formed a new partnership with Jeffery Staton selling fertilizer and shingles.³ The William B. Tilghman Company was a long-term fixture along Salisbury's waterfront.

² Sanborn Insurance map, 1899.

³ Obituary article for W. B. Tilghman, personal files of Louise Booth Hartman.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-470

Name William B. Tilghman House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural/Industrial Transition 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: Dwelling

Historic Environment: Residential Neighborhood

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-470

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name

Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

WI-470
William B. Tilghman House
408 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 111, Parcel 1511

865/148 Bruce W. Vierling

to

11/3/1976 Joseph S. Price
Arlois I. Price

865/148 Bruce W. Vierling
Patricia L. Vierling

to

10/8/1974 Bruce W. Vierling

JWTS 756/523 Charles W. Huber
Laura M. Huber

to

3/30/1972 Bruce W. Vierling
Patricia L. Vierling

JWTS 722/184 Dana Walker Nelson
Frances Ruby Nelson

to

11/6/1970 Charles W. Huber
Laura M. Huber

WI-470
William B. Tilghman House
408 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 656/22

J. Fred Flowers, et al.

to

9/8/1967

Dana Walker Nelson
Frances Ruby Nelson

JWTS 579/111

John C. Taylor
Jeanne W. Taylor

to

1/6/1964

J. Fred Flowers
Charlotte L. Flowers

JWTS 367/39

M. Louise Tilghman Lambert, et al.

to

9/30/1954

John T. Taylor
Jean W. Taylor

Will Book
MNN 1/592

Last Will and Testament
Annie E. Tilghman

to

9/30/1931
Proved
3/26/1935

Children, M. Louise Tilghman Lambert
William B. Tilghman, Jr.
Mary Tilghman Strudwick
Anna Bell Tilghman Booth

WI-470

Page 3

William B. Tilghman House

408 Camden Avenue

Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Chain of title continued

Will Book

LJG 1/199

Last Will and Testament of

William B. Tilghman

to

4/19/1907

Annie E. Tilghman

SPT 5/436

Thomas H. Roten and wife, Mary E. Roten

to

12/16/1882

William B. Tilghman

\$1,200 "Camden"

Obituary in the collection of Louise Booth Hartman

Death of W. B. Tilghman

The End Came At Walter's Park Friday Afternoon

Mr. Tilghman Had Been Failing For Several Months—Was One of Salisbury's Most Successful
From a Farm In Nutter's District and Amassed a Fortune

A telegram received here Friday evening about 7 o'clock announced the death at Walter's Park, Pa., of Mr. William B. Tilghman, one of Salisbury's most prominent business men. Mr. Tilghman had been in failing health for several months, and his death was not unexpected by his family and friends.

In the demise of Mr. Tilghman has passed away another of the old-time business men who were identified with the growth and development of Salisbury. He had witnessed the expansion of Salisbury from a struggling village to the its present proportions, and had contributed in a large measure to its development. He was a striking example of the self-made man, and owned his success in life to his own exertions and keen business ability. He died possessed of a comfortable fortune.

Wm. B. Tilghman was born October 18th, 1839 in the old Driscoll house on the farm in Nutter's District now owned by Wm B. Tilghman, Jr. His parents were Wm Beauchamp and Mary Nichols Tilghman. He spent his boyhood days on the farm. His educational advantages were meagre, his schooling being limited to two or three months in the winter. At the age of 17 he came to Salisbury and took a position in the store of the late John D. Williams on South Division St. For two years young Tilghman worked on \$75 a year and his board, and for the next three years \$150 and board. Out of his salary he save several hundred dollars, and in the fall of 1862 he branched out in business for himself, acquiring a third interest in the mercantile business conducted by Gen. Humphrey Humphreys and Dr. Cathell Humphreys. Then came the firm Humphreys & Tilghman, which was prominent in the business affairs of Salisbury for more than a quarter of a century. The capital paid in was \$3,600.

In 1866 Dr. Cathell Humphreys died. The cash capital and the firm had by this time doubled itself, and the two surviving partners purchased the interest of the deceased member. The firm then branched out in the lumber and milling business. The annual sales amounted to from \$80,000 to \$100,000. A large fleet of vessels was owned by the firm, engaged in the transportation of grain and lumber to Baltimore, and on the return trips bringing merchandise for the stores in Salisbury.

In 1882, just previous to his death, Gen. Humphrey Humphreys sold his interest in the business to his son Randolph Humphreys, and this partnership existed until 1884, when the store business was sold to B. L. Gillis & Son. The firm, however, continued in the fertilizer and shingle business until the fall of 1898, when a dissolution took place. In January, 1895, Mr. Tilghman formed a co-partnership with Mr. Jeff Staton in the fertilizer and shingle business. This copartnership continued until 1904, when it merged into a corporation, composed of Wm B. Tilghman, W. Jeff Staton, Wm B. Tilghman, Jr., and Oscar Morris, with a capitalization of a hundred thousand dollars. In 1904, Mr. Tilghman's health having begun to fail, retired from business at the age of 65 years.

In addition to his activities for years in the mercantile business, Mr. Tilghman found time to devote his splendid business ambitions to outside affairs. In 1884 he was one of the foremost of the citizens in the organization of the Salisbury Permanent Building and Loan Association. He became its first President and held that position until March of the present year, when he resigned. He was for several years President of the Salisbury National Bank, and served on the City Council for several years.

Mr. Tilghman was one of the most prominent members of Trinity M. E. Church South, and was one of the largest contributors to the church.

The deceased was twice married, his first wife having been Miss Mary Shipley, whom he married in 1869. Of this union there was one child, Kate H. Tilghman, now the wife of Hon. E. Stanley Toadvin. Mrs. Tilghman died in 1874.

In 1879 the second marriage was to Miss Annie Bell, of Potosi, Mo., who survives with the following children: Minnie Louise, William B., Mary, Clara and Anna Belle.

50 LNW
HEBRON

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

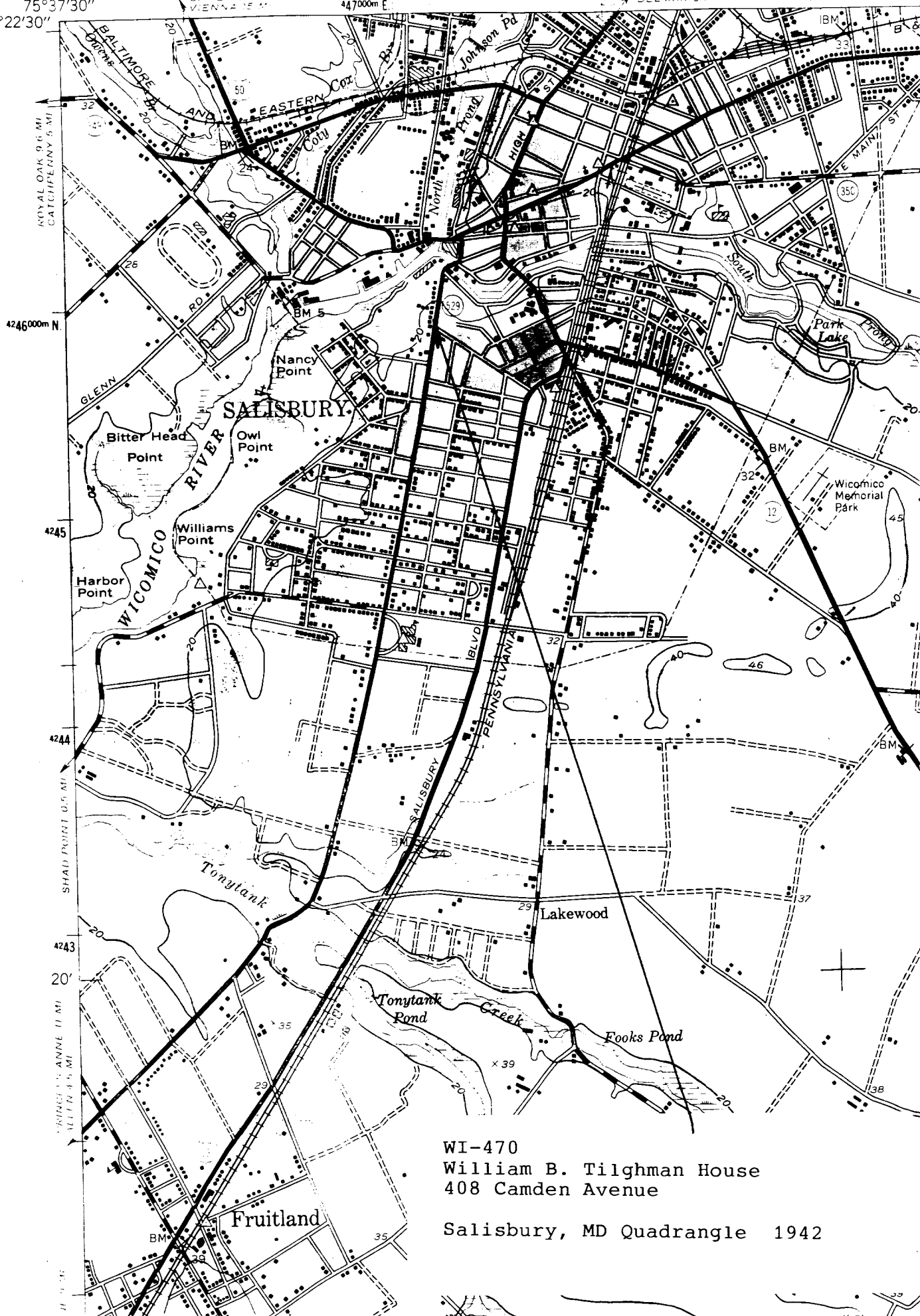
75°37'30"
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.
VIENNA 15 MI.

447000m E

LAUREL 13 MI.
DELMAR 6 MI.

35'



WI-470

William B. Tilghman House
408 Camden Avenue

Salisbury, MD Quadrangle 1942





12/4/77

Miss Mary E. T. ...

12/5/77, Monday ...

Sunday ...

2/20/78, PA ...

...

1 6 2



